

To Be A Pilgrim

Characters

Stall holder 1 - Man (Sth 1).

Stall holder 2 - Woman (Sth 2).

Crowd - Crow 1, Crow 2, Crow 3.

Jesus .

Stall holders enter from Chancel through screen carrying a table covered in bread and fruit.

Sth 1 Come on wife there's not far to go. I can see a good spot just over there.

Sth 2: But .. but it's heavy

Sth 1: Well my dearest, it's not as heavy as the money bags we'll be carrying home this evening when we've fleeced this lot. I mean, Pilgrims, they're so jollied up about feasts and festivals that they will pay anything for a cheese sandwich.

(They get to the central dais slightly to the right)

Sth 1: Here, this will do nicely.

(They put the table down as if by the roadside that runs from chancel to main aisle)

Sth 2: But don't you think...

St h 1: All I think my sweet is that the kids need new shoes, the donkey is at death's door, the roof leaks and we're broke, so get slicing and make some sandwiches so we can rip that lot off as they come past.

Sth 2: (Starts slicing bread) .You know, I'd quite like to go to Jerusalem for a festival one day.

Sth 1: What? have you gone...!

Sth 2: But we've lived in Bethany for twenty five years, Jerusalem is only down the road, and I've never been to a festival.

Sth 1: And there's one good reason for that wife, one very good reason. I'm not having my wife go all 'religious' on me, all right? All this religious stuff never did anyone any good, and as I've told you time and time again, there's only two important things in life ...

Sth 2: (fed up, with a sigh) Yes I know ...

Sth 1: only two things that are important in life, and that is money and money. So get slicing while I just nip back and get that extra bread (starts to go off side, turns back). And by the way, the cheese is £10, and if they want Olives that's £20.

Sth 2: (keeps slicing) Money, money, money that's all he thinks about. He thinks that money makes the world go around, but .. but I'm sure there must be more, there must be more.

(Cro 1 enters through the screen and approaches the table)

Cro 1: What beautiful sandwiches.

Sth 2: Oh.. well.. thank you, they're not bad.

Cro 1: What lovely golden crusts, beautiful yellow cheese, rich black olives, it all looks so .. so... beautiful!

Sth 2: Well don't go so overboard, it's just bread, cheese and olives, you've seen it all a million times before.

Cro 1: But that's it.

Sth 2: That's what?

Cro 1: That's it, you see I haven't seen it before.

Sth 2: What? You haven't seen bread, cheese and olives before? I know my husband says pilgrims are a funny lot, but you must be from another planet.

Cro 1: No, no ...you don't understand. I haven't seen it before because this morning I was blind, but now I can see. Jesus healed me, Jesus made me see, and now.. now... now I can see (pointing) bread, and cheese, and olives! All these wonderful colours, it's .. it's .. it's... amazing.

Sth 2: You're kidding me.

Cro 1: No, not at all, it's true, I was blind but now I see, and Jesus did it. You can see him for yourself in a minute he's coming by, right by here, and he can help you too, he really can!

Sth 2: Wow.. If this is true this is amazing.....

Cro 1: (looking at table) Err... I'll have that one with extra Olives, how much?

Sth 2: Err... err.... this is amazing .. err... Oh take it, it's yours, just take it, you deserve it! Take it and enjoy it.

(Cro 1 takes sandwich and goes to opposite side of dais)

(Sth 1 returns)

Sth 1: How's business wife?

Sth 2: Well ..err...

Sth 1: (holding out his hand) come on a sandwich has gone, where's the money?

Sth 2: Well... I ... errr... I gave it away to the blind man who can now see.

Sth 1: What, you fell for that old story. I know gullible is your middle name but that takes the biscuit. I told you not to trust a pilgrim, they'll spin you any old story for a free lunch.

Sth 2: But he said it was....

Sth 1: I don't care what he said, just don't give anything away, sell it! Now I'm off to get some more olives, we're bound to run out. (starts to exit to the side, turns back) Don't forget, sell it, don't give it away!

(exits).

Sth 2: Well it all sounded real to me, very real.

(Enter Cro 2 through screen. Stands by table and says nothing).

Sth 2: Err... Can I help you.

Cro 2: Oh say that again, say that again!

Sth 2: What? Can I help you?

Cro 2: Oh yes, yes, that was so beautiful, so beautiful, you have the most beautiful voice, just like the sweetest music, say it again.

Sth 2: I said: Can I help you, meaning would you like a sandwich.

Cro 2: It's just amazing, amazing.

Sth 2: Look here mister, I don't know what you're up to but you've heard thousands of voices before and mine is nothing special, so choose a sandwich if you want one or move on.

Cro 2: But that's it?

Sth 2: That's what?

cro 2: That's it, you see I haven't heard thousands of voices before. In fact I haven't heard anything before, up until yesterday I was deaf, stone deaf, couldn't hear a thing, but now I can hear. I can hear voices, and birds, and donkeys and children and music and laughter, and ... and... and... and Jesus did it all, he healed me, he made me hear!

Sth 2: That's strange, someone else mentioned this Jesus this morning.

Cro 2: He's coming by in just a few minutes, he's coming by here, you must meet him because he can help you as well, he really can.

Sth 2: Well it does all sound very interesting.

Cro 2: Just call out to him when he comes, call out and he will help you.

Sth 2: Well I might just do that. If he really can make the blind see and the deaf hear he must be amazing.

Cro 2: He is, he is, he's the greatest, he's the King!

Sth 2: Look here, have a sandwich, you deserve it.

cro 2: Oh thanks, how much?

Sth 2: Just take it, it's yours, take it and enjoy it.

(Crow 2 takes sandwich and goes to opposite side of dais).

(Sth 1 enters)

Sth 1: How's business now wife? The crowds are building up.

Sth 2: Well, errr...

Sth 1: Oh another sandwich has gone, let's have the money.

Sth 2: Oh ... err... you see... I...

Sth 1: You what! You gave another one away!

Sth 2: To the deaf man who can now hear, he told me all about Jesus.

Sth 1: Look here wife, let me explain again. Don't ever trust a pilgrim, they're all blaggers, they'll all try and get something for nothing, they'll all spin you a sob story, but just don't believe them, not a word of it.

Sth 2: But...

Sth 1: But nothing. Now I've got to go and get the rest of the cheese, I'll be gone 10 minutes. Don't give anything away again OK, just sell it!

(Sth 1 exits again).

Sth 2: But they sound so excited, surely they can't be lying, they must be telling the truth, this Jesus must be the healer and King they are saying he is.

(Enter Cro 3 through the screen. He is running and just runs up and down by the table. He stops at the table but continues to run on the spot).

Sth 2: Can I help you? Or are you just going to keep jumping up and down there and sweating over my sandwiches.

Cro 3: Jumping, yes jumping, running and jumping, that's what I'm doing. It's amazing isn't it!

Sth 2: Oh yes very amazing. I'm sure that you are the only person in the whole wide world who can run and jump, your name will go down in history as ...

Cro 3: (standing still) No it is amazing, really amazing. You see I've never been able to run and jump before, I used to be a cripple, for 38 years I couldn't even shuffle let alone jump, but Jesus healed me, he said: "Pick up your bed and walk," and... and ... and now here I am, walking and running and jumping. It's amazing.

Sth 2: You're the third person today to mention this Jesus.

Cro 3: Oh yes, everyone's talking about him, he's amazing. He's powerful, he heals people, he says wonderful words, he's the King, and he's coming this way in just a moment. You really ought to meet him you know. He can help you too.

Sth 2: Well you know I think I would, anyone who can make the blind see, the deaf hear and the lame walk must be amazing, truly amazing!

Cro 3: He's coming now, just call out to him and he will help you.

Sth 2: Ok Ok I will, here take a sandwich, you must need it after all that running.

(Cro 3 takes sandwich and goes to other side of dais)

(Jesus walks through screen onto dais).

Cro 1,2,3: Jesus, hurray, Hosanna to the king. Jesus is the King etc etc.

(While crowd are shouting)

Sth 2: Oh he's coming, he's coming, what shall I do, what shall I do, shall I call him? J... J...

(Shouts) JESUS!

(All go silent. Jesus stops and looks at her).

Jesus: What do you want daughter?

Sth 2: I want to be happy. I want meaning in my life!

Jesus: Well come, follow me and you will have all you want and more, for I am the way, the truth and the life.

Sth 2: Yes, yes ... yes I will, I'm coming, yes I'm coming.

(She comes out from behind the table).

Cro 1,2,3: Hurray.

They all follow Jesus up the aisle

Crow 1,2 3 & Sth 2: Hosanna to Jesus, Hosanna to the King, Jesus is the king, Hosanna in the highest! etc etc.

(Once they are out of the way Sth 1 enters again).

Sth 1: Well wife I got the (Pause)..... cheese. Where is she? and where's the crowd? Oh well that's really great isn't it! Now I've got no wife, no money, no crowd and a mountain of bread, cheese and olives to eat! I really don't know why I bother!!!

(stomps off).

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